

of the volume the scheming and plotting of the reign, the official jobbery and corruption, are traced for several years.

"La Curfe" (III) follows, and one turns to Eugene

Bougon's younger brother, Aristide, who has assumed the pseudonym of Saccard. "With him the reader joins in the great rush for the spoils of the new *regime*. A passion for money and enjoyment seizes on one and all, debauchery

reigns in society, and a fever of reckless speculation is kindled by the transformation of Paris under Baron Haussmann and his acolytes. Men and women sell themselves.

Kende, Saccard's second wife, passes from mere adultery to incest, becoming a modern Phedra, while Saccard himself leads the life of an eager, glutinous bird of prey, which lie continues in the ensuing volume, "L'Argent" (IT), where the Bourse — the money-market — is shown with all its gambling, its thousand tricks and frauds.

So far the series might seem a mere record of roguery, vice, and corruption, but those who know the books are aware that such is not the case. Silvkre and Miette stand for love and all the better qualities of humanity in the first volume; there are at least the Martinets and the Berauds in the second and third; and the devoted Madame Caroline, the honest Hamelin, the pious Princess d'Orviedo, the dreamy, generous-hearted Sigismond, the loving Jordans, and the unfortunate Mazaud, all figure in the

fourth, amid the scramble for gold in which, the other characters participate.

In sharp contrast with that greed for gain is the picture offered by the next volume, "Le B@ve" (V), "where an immaculate lily arises from the tot-bed of vice, whence later, and as a further contrast, a type of foul shamelessness,